

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: North Dry Gulch Ponderosa Pine Thinning Project

Proposal Number: 1495

DWR Region: Northeastern Region

Lead Agency: USFS

County: Duchesne

Project Manager: Bob Christensen

PM Phone: 4357816733

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 7/1/2009

Project Location: On the south slope of the Uinta Mountains in the Dry Gulch/Mud Springs area on the north side of Forest Service Road #119.

Project Description: This project will improve wildlife habitat and improve long-term forest health and sustainability in early seral ponderosa pine stands in the Dry Gulch area by reducing stand density through mechanical thinning.

Description of Problem/Need: Currently, the regeneration of ponderosa pine in the Dry Gulch/Mud Springs area has become thick, dense stands that reduce available forage. The tight clumps of trees provide habitat for relatively few wildlife species, and contribute to a loss of long-term forest health.

The trees are between 1"-6" diameter at base height (DBH), and the majorities are less than 7' tall. The trees have already begun the self-pruning process of the lower limbs, and the growth rates have been slowed. There is little understory in these tight clumps, and the opportunity for an increase of species diversity (shrub & grass) has been inhibited or slowed.

Reducing the stand density in this area will increase diversity of the understory as well as wildlife species that will use this area. It will also improve the health of the ponderosa pine stand by increasing growth rates, and decreasing the self-pruning process of lower limbs.

Objectives: Improve wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species including the northern goshawk (classified as a Tier 1 species by the State and a sensitive species by the Forest Service), wild turkey, migratory birds, elk, mule deer, moose, and small mammals by providing a more diverse habitat structure. Open the young stands to provide an opportunity for the short and long-term establishment of a diverse understory of shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Improve the health of the ponderosa pine stand by reducing stand density and promoting better growth rates, and decreasing the self pruning rate of lower limbs.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: This project falls within elk calving and deer fawning habitat, and is within wild turkey and goshawk habitat. Both the UDWR and the Forest Service have interests in improving habitat for these species. This project is compatible and governed by the Ashley National Forest Plan. The Forest is committed to the improvement of wildlife habitat, particularly those species listed below that are designated as Forest Service sensitive species and Ashley National Forest Management Indicator Species (MIS)

Potential Risks: None Anticipated

Proposed Methods: A total of approximately 2,932 acres will be mechanically treated. There has been 2,280 acres already treated. During the 2009 year, we are proposing to treat 450 acres. Thinning will be performed by a hand crew using chainsaws, and trees will be left on the site. Thinned material will be left untreated or lopped and scattered. Thinning will be complete during the summer and fall. Vehicular access to the area will be along existing roads FSR 10119, 10266, & 10122. No new roads will be created. Further access will be by foot.

Shapefile Name: 1495.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: The Forest Service has vegetative study sites throughout the project area. Each of these sites will be read periodically as well as species abundance. Photo points will be placed in the treatment areas to monitor changes over time. Project implementation will be monitored to ensure project is completed and implemented appropriately.

Grazing Management: A current grazing management plan has been completed for the allotment wherein the project resides. This project will maintain forage and grazing conditions for both wildlife and livestock by opening the stand and providing greater forage production in both the short and long term. Long-term vegetative studies on the allotment have shown good vegetative response and recovery following a disturbance in

SPECIES BENEFITING

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 12:47:03

Project Proposal

Elk

Mule Deer

Merriam's Wild Turkey

Rio Grande Wild Turk

Northern Goshawk

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	450
Total	450

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$32,000.00		\$0.00
USFS	\$40,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$72,000.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	hand crew for thinning ponderosa pine stands	\$32,000.00	\$40,000.00
	Totals	\$32,000.00	\$40,000.00

Project Map:

CY2009/FY2010 NORTH DRY GULCH PONDEROSA PINE THINNING PROJECT

